

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contents reproducing system comprising:
 - first, second, and third apparatuses;
 - 5 a network connecting the first, second, and third apparatuses;
 - means provided in the first apparatus for generating a first list of contents represented by data stored in the first apparatus;
 - means provided in the second apparatus for generating a second list of contents represented by data stored in the second apparatus;
 - 10 means provided in the first apparatus for getting the second list of contents from the second apparatus and combining the first list of contents and the second list of contents into a third list of contents;
 - means provided in the second apparatus for getting the first list of contents from the first apparatus and combining the first list of contents and the second list of contents into a fourth list of contents which is equal to the third list of contents; and
 - 15 means provided in the third apparatus for referring to one of (1) the third list of contents which is generated by the first apparatus and (2) the fourth list of contents which is generated by the second apparatus.
- 20 2. A contents reproducing system as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - means provided in the first apparatus for, when data representing a first new content is stored in the first apparatus, updating the first list of contents to include the first new content;
 - 25 means provided in the second apparatus for, when data representing a second new content is stored in the second apparatus, updating the second list of contents to include the second new content;

means provided in the first apparatus for updating the third list of contents in response to the updating of the first list of contents and the updating of the second list of contents; and

means provided in the second apparatus for updating the fourth list of contents in response to the updating of the first list of contents and the updating of the second list of contents.

3. A contents reproducing system as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

means provided in the first apparatus for, when the second apparatus is disconnected from the network, updating the third list of contents to delete therefrom the contents represented by the data stored in the second apparatus; and

means provided in the second apparatus for, when the first apparatus is disconnected from the network, updating the fourth list of contents to delete therefrom the contents represented by the data stored in the first apparatus.

4. A contents reproducing system comprising:

a first reproducing apparatus;
a second reproducing apparatus;
a network connecting the first reproducing apparatus and the second reproducing apparatus;

first means for, when the first reproducing apparatus suspends reproduction of a content and there occurs an un-reproduced part of the content, generating first information to identify the content, second information to identify a place storing data representing the content, and third information indicating a bookmark point corresponding to a beginning

of the un-reproduced part of the content; and

second means for, when the un-reproduced part of the content is requested to be reproduced by the second reproducing apparatus, causing the second reproducing apparatus to identify the content in response to the first information, to get the data representing the identified content from the place identified by the second information, and to reproduce the un-reproduced part of the content in response to the bookmark point indicated by the third information.

10 5. A contents reproducing apparatus as recited in claim 4, further comprising:

a content bookmark button provided in the first reproducing apparatus;

15 third means for causing the first reproducing apparatus to suspend the reproduction of the content when the content bookmark button is actuated; and

fourth means for activating the first means when the content bookmark button is actuated.

20 6. A contents reproducing apparatus as recited in claim 4, further comprising:

a memory provided in the first reproducing apparatus;

third means for combining the first information, the second information, and the third information into bookmark information;

25 fourth means for writing the bookmark information into the memory; and

fifth means for transmitting the bookmark information to the second reproducing apparatus.

7. A contents recording and reproducing system comprising:
 - first, second, and third apparatuses;
 - a network connecting the first, second, and third apparatuses;
- 5 means provided in the first apparatus for generating a first list of contents represented by data stored in the first apparatus;
- means provided in the second apparatus for generating a second list of contents represented by data stored in the second apparatus;
- means provided in the first apparatus for getting the second list of contents from the second apparatus and combining the first list of contents and the second list of contents into a third list of contents;
- 10 means provided in the second apparatus for getting the first list of contents from the first apparatus and combining the first list of contents and the second list of contents into a fourth list of contents which is equal to the third list of contents; and
- 15 means provided in the third apparatus for referring to one of (1) the third list of contents which is generated by the first apparatus and (2) the fourth list of contents which is generated by the second apparatus.

- 20 8. A contents recording and reproducing system comprising:
 - a first reproducing apparatus;
 - a second reproducing apparatus;
 - a network connecting the first reproducing apparatus and the second reproducing apparatus;
- 25 first means for, when the first reproducing apparatus suspends reproduction of a content and there occurs an un-reproduced part of the content, generating first information to identify the content, second information to identify a place storing data representing the content, and

third information indicating a bookmark point corresponding to a beginning of the un-reproduced part of the content; and

second means for, when the un-reproduced part of the content is requested to be reproduced by the second reproducing apparatus, causing

5 the second reproducing apparatus to identify the content in response to the first information, to get the data representing the identified content from the place identified by the second information, and to reproduce the un-reproduced part of the content in response to the bookmark point indicated by the third information.